

Serial No. 09/917,213
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2005

Docket No. HI-0039A

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawing includes changes to Fig. 4B. This sheet, which includes Fig. 4B, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4B to correct a minor spelling error. The replacement sheet/formal drawing will be submitted in due course.

Attachment: Annotated Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 7-18 are pending in the present application. Claim 6 has been cancelled and claims 1, 7, 10, 13, 16 and 18 have been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-5 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatenable over Popat; and claims 6-12 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In light of this indication, dependent claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form. Further, independent claim 1 has been amended to include only the subject matter recited in dependent claim 6 (and not the subject matter recited in intermediate independent claims 2-5). It is respectfully submitted independent claim 1 is still allowable even though it does not include dependent claims 2-5 which dependent claim 6 depends from, because the applied art does not teach or suggest the features of pausing a counting operation of a second counter as now recited in claim 1.

Further, independent claim 13 has been amended to recite that the method includes continuing a counting operation of all other counters of the plurality of counters, except the i^{th} counter, in each of the number of devices. Independent claims 16 and 18 include similar features in a varying scope.

In a non-limiting example, Figures 3B and 4B illustrates a second counter 802 (C_1) and a third counter 803(C_2) continuing a counting operation even though the i^{th} counter 801 (C_0) is paused.

It is respectfully noted Popat does not teach or suggest each device including a plurality of counters and does not teach suggest the counting operations as claimed by the present invention. Rather, Popat merely teaches a single turn counter in each device that is used to keep track of a current time slot number (see column 4, line 24-27, for example).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 13, 16 and 18 and each of the claims dependent therefrom are also allowable.

Further, the specification has been amended to correct a minor informality. In addition, Figure 4B has been amended to correct a minor spelling error.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Daniel Y.J. Kim**, at the telephone number listed below.

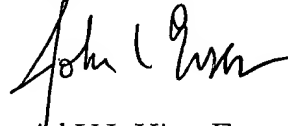
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John C. Eisenhart'.

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